

**September 1, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded a \$4,875 grant to the Town of Vernon to fund an engineering and environmental reports for the proposed sanitary sewer collection system. The USDA also awarded a \$204,600 grant and a \$500,000 direct loan to the Village of Vernon for completion of water system improvements.

"Rural water infrastructure projects like these have long been under-funded. To ensure that residents have access to a safe and reliable water supply, we must make improvements to the aging infrastructure found in so many towns in Upstate New York," Arcuri said, "The Recovery Act is helping us address these pressing problems while at the same time putting people back to work. I look forward to following the progress of these vital projects, and will continue my efforts to secure funding for similar initiatives.

The funding announced today, administered by USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program, was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

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